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ABSTRACT

Covering the period July 1, 1974-June 30, 1975, this annual report briefly describes the programs and activities of the Nebraska Indian Commission, a commission established under the 1971 Nebraska Revised Statutes Supplement for purposes of joining "representatives of all Indians in nebraska to do all things which it may determine to enhance the Indian cause of Indian rights and to develop solutions to problems common to all Nebraska Indians." Specifically, this report describes, by objectives and results, the following social service activities: (1) Welfare, (2) Housing, (3) Education, (4) Employment, (5) Legal Services, (6) Medical and Dental, (7) Economic Development. Additionally, the coordinators of the following 1974-75 Nebraska Indina Commission Committees are identified: (1) Local, County, State, Federal, Foundation, Church-Funded Programs Committee; (2) Legislative Committee; (3) Education Committee; (4) Health and Welfare Committee; (5) Legal Services Committee. The names and affiliations of commission members and a map detailing the Aberdeen Area serviced by the Aberdeen Area Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs are also presented. (JC)

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REPORT OF THE

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

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Period

July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975

ROBERT B. MACKEY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RC009108

HON. J. JAMES EXON
GOVERNOR

State of Nebraska

ROBERT B. MACKEY
DIRECTOR

Nebraska Indian Commission
Box 94666 – State Capitol – Lincoln 68509
Telephone 477-3964

June 30, 1975

The Honorable J. James Exon
Governor of the State of Nebraska
Capitol Building
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Governor Exon:

The Indians of this state, through the Nebraska Indian Commission extend their sincere gratitude for the opportunity to submit this report covering a period from July 1, 1974 through June 30, 1975 in keeping with the requirements of Revised Statutes, Section 3, 81-1219 (LB904, 1971) whereby it states, "The Commission shall report annually to the Legislature and the Governor as to the work and accomplishments of the Commission."

There are over 15,500 Indians living in Nebraska. There are three federally established Indian reservations located in the Northeastern part of the state which includes the Santee-Sioux in Knox County, and the Omaha and Winnebago Tribes in Thurston County. Only about two thousand Indians live on these reservations, and the others live in off-reservation areas in rural, urban, and metropolitan communities. At least 2,500 live in Western Nebraska who have come from the Dakotas, Wyoming, and Kansas. Many of these are itinerant migrants following the seasonal agricultural-related employment opportunities.

The Nebraska Indian Commission by law, represents and advocates for the Native Americans on the state level.

The Nebraska Indian Commission is grateful to the Governor, and the Eighty-Fourth Legislature, local, county, state and federal agencies for the programs which have benefited the Nebraska Indians.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Mackey

Robert B. Mackey, Executive Director
Nebraska Indian Commission

FORWARD

July 1, 1974 through June 30, 1975

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION

The Indians of Nebraska have been able to make substantial inroads into their priority needs because only an Indian understands his problems best.

Programs for Housing, Education and Training, Employment Opportunity, Welfare, Medical-Dental Care, Economic Development, Alcohol-Drug Rehabilitation and Legal Service are under way and functioning.

The Indian Commission keeps the Governor's Office fully informed on the status of the Nebraska Indians.

The Indian Commission also keeps the Public informed through the newspapers, radio, and television.

Through continual contact with the Public the Indian Commission has been able to bring about a better understanding for both the non-Indians and the Native Americans.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

1974 1975

Lawrence Cook	Omaha Tribe
Clement Mitchell	Omaha Tribe
Pauline Tyndall	Omaha Tribe
Gordon Kitto, Sr.	Santee-Sioux Tribe
Willard Mackey, Sr.	Santee-Sioux Tribe
Donald La Pointe	Santee Sioux Tribe
Louis La Rose	Winnebago Tribe
Felix White, Sr.	Winnebago Tribe
Nicky Solomon	Winnebago Tribe
Mark Monroe	Northern Panhandle
Dolores Kills in Water	Southern Panhandle
Nathan Parker	(I.C.I.A.) City of Omaha Indian Center
Martha Gibbs	(I.C.I.A.) City of Omaha Indian Center
Imogene Haukaas	City of Lincoln Indian Center
Lawrence Gilpin	Member-at-Large

NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION COMMITTEES

That Section 81-1219, LB904, 1971 Nebraska Revised Statutes Supplement, 1971, Section 2, reads as follows: "The purpose of the Commission shall be to join representatives of all Indians in Nebraska to do all things which it may determine to enhance the Indian cause of Indian Rights and to develop solutions to problems common to all Nebraska Indians."

Section 3 reads as follows: "The Commission shall be a legal entity with the power to receive and administer funds from state, federal, tribal, and other sources . . . ."

COMMITTEES

Local, county, state, federal, foundation, church-funded programs - Committee

Martha Gibbs, Coordinator
Louis La Rose
Willard Mackey, Sr.
Nate Parker
Pauline Tyndall

Legislative Committee

Felix White, Sr., Coordinator
Lawrence Cook
Clement Mitchell
Pauline Tyndall
Nicky Solomon

Education Committee

Imogene Haukaas, Coordinator
Mark Monroe
Dolores Kills in Water
Martha Gibbs

Health and Welfare Committee

Lawrence Gilpin, Coordinator
Imogene Haukaas
Dolores Kills in Water
Mark Monroe
Don La Pointe
Pauline Tyndall
Nicky Solomon

Legal Services Committee

Gordon Kitto, Sr., Coordinator
Felix White, Sr.
Clarence White
Imogene Haukaas
Martha Gibbs
Dolores Kills in Water

Reverend George Gapp
Indian Spiritual Leader

ABERDEEN AREA

Source: Aberdeen Area Office
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Aberdeen, South Dakota

WELFARE

Objectives: Provision of equitable survival needs of Nebraska Indians

Results: All Nebraska Indians are eligible by law for welfare assistance if they qualify as any other citizen. There appears to exist a special formula by County and State Welfare Offices when an Indian applies for assistance. Since most welfare programs are federally funded, all complaints will be investigated and reported to the appropriate federal agency.

Those Indian persons who reside on the reservation, and who qualify, will receive 90 days interim assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs while applying for County and State assistance.

HOUSING

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission has brought continual pressure upon City, State, and Federal offices that a critical housing situation exists for Indians in the State of Nebraska.

Results: Housing shortages continue to exist on the reservations despite a token housing program by the Federal Government. Many Indians live in substandard housing facilities both on and off of the reservations.

Economics apparently is the key problem for Indians living in off reservation areas. For example, during a recent tornado in Omaha, the availability of housing was abundant in private housing units as well as federal housing projects.

If there are low-cost housing programs existent, it has not been available for Indians.

EDUCATION

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission has long recognized that education and training is the single most important key for release from poverty. The Commission has actively participated in a broad spectrum of educational programs beneficial to all Indians.

Results: In addition to the above, on all three Indian reservations, and in Indian communities across the state there are Basic, Remedial, and Adult Educational programs.

On the three reservations there is the Indian Community Satellite College Program, offering college-level educational opportunities.

The Nebraska Indian Talent Search program seeks out Indian students who want to go on to college or into some kind of career training, finding financial assistance for all students who need help.

The Nebraska Indian Commission has worked with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to assure financial assistance for any Indian student who needed help.

EMPLOYMENT

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission has continually passed on job announcements to all Indians of the state.

Results: There is discrimination in employment opportunities for Indians.

It is also readily apparent that the Indians in Nebraska do not have adequate education and training to properly compete for skilled positions.

The Administrative Assistant to the director of the Nebraska Indian Commission in Lincoln has broad responsibilities for Job Development, including Indians who are scheduled for release from the Penal Complex.

LEGAL SERVICES

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission makes every effort to be in close contact with the office of the Governor, Attorney General, State Patrol, Crime Commission, and other county, state, and federal agencies dealing with law enforcement problems.

The Omaha Indian Tribe is the only one of the three tribes who is under Federal jurisdiction through Retrocession, while the Santee-Sioux and Winnebago tribes are under Public Law 280 or County and State Law on their reservations.

Results: The three tribes have a Legal Service Program.

The Nebraska Indian Commission received a grant from the Nebraska Crime Commission to provide the Indians of Nebraska with an attorney who will mobilize other attorneys to handle legal cases in the local Indian communities. The program is geared for off-reservation Indians primarily, but all Indians can be assisted.

In November 1974, five VISTA volunteer workers, were assigned to Nebraska to assist in the Indian Legal Service Program. These specially-trained persons are located in Omaha, Lincoln, and Scottsbluff.

MEDICAL - DENTAL

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission continues to seek comprehensive medical-dental care for all Indians. The reservation Indians receive limited Indian Health Services. A few referrals are made to a University Hospital Program in Omaha. Most off-reservation Indians fall into a displaced situation and do not receive proper medical and dental care as citizens in this state under the welfare program. As stated previously, a special formula apparently is used in dealing with Indian clientele who invariably loses out. If the Nebraska Indians could receive the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on studies on Health needs in this state, the Indians' needs could be adequately provided.

All Indians, as Indians should be eligible for Indian Health Services no matter where they live because they are no less Indians (Ruiz vs Morton).

Results: The Naval Medical Reserve of Lincoln are negotiating a medical delivery program with the Indian Health Services, for an experimental program on the Santee-Sioux Reservation. If this is successful, the program will be offered to the other two tribes and Indian communities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Objectives: The Nebraska Indian Commission is working cooperatively with the reservation Indians and off-reservation Indians, seeking Economic Development opportunities. Each reservation has an Economic Development Specialist to help the Indians. Unfortunately the federal government agencies who deal with these problems fail to realize that "minorities" include the Indians.

The loan requirements are unrealistic and guarantees that Indians can't qualify.

The Nebraska Indian Commission sought State Legislation to develop Fort Robinson into a tourist attraction, with Indians participating, but this legislation failed to materialize.

Results: The three reservations have the Nebraska Indian Inter-Tribal Development Corporation to assist the Indians in Industrial development.

Each tribe has an Industrial Park for new Industry.

Programs to train manpower are existent on each reservation.

All three tribes are showing excellent progress for their economic development.

SUMMARY

With the Indians being involved in their own affairs, definite progress has been made.

When it comes to inter-tribal affairs the Nebraska Indians have developed a method of "Indian Unity." Tribalism is being practiced on individual reservations where it should be to bring out particular Cultures, Language, Arts and Crafts, and Values free of conflict.

The Indian Leadership is dedicated to help one another on all levels of government.

Ihe Indian Commission staff are professionals experienced in Indian affairs working for all Indians.

It has taken the combined efforts of all people to bring about the successful efforts of the Indians of Nebraska.